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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Akihiro Yanagita et al. Group Art Unit: 3754  
Serial Number: 10/649,977 Examiner: Fuller, Eric. B.  
Filed: August 26, 2003  
Title: DISPENSING SYSTEM AND METHOD  
OF CONTROLLING THE SAME  
Attorney Docket No.: 65,017-185

**STATUS INQUIRY**

**Commissioner for Patents**  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The above identified patent application was filed nearly 14 months ago. The failure by the Patent Office to take action within this time frame may result in an adjustment of the patent term under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) and 37 CFR 1.702 – 1.705. We note that the last communication received from the Patent Office was the FILING RECEIPT dated May 7, 2004. Applicant hereby requests that the Patent Office advise applicant's undersigned attorney as to the status of the application.

Favorable and prompt consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

**HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.**

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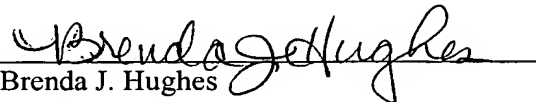
Dated: October 18, 2004

U.S.S.N.: 10/649,977



**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that the attached **Status Inquiry** and **Return Post Card** are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to **Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450** on **October 18, 2004**.

  
Brenda J. Hughes

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